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LETTER DATED 8 MARCH 1993 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF KUWAIT TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you of new developments with regard to the continuing Iraqi assertions that Kuwait belongs to Iraq. I do so because of the danger that such claims pose to the security and stability of the Gulf region and because they are irrefutable proof of the aggressive designs of the Iraqi regime against Kuwait and a flagrant violation of Security Council resolution 687 (1991).

As you know, the President of the Security Council made an introductory statement at the formal meeting of the Council held on Monday, 23 November 1992, that was devoted to an assessment of Iraq's compliance with the specific obligations imposed by the relevant Security Council resolutions. In that statement, the President, on behalf of the members of the Council, expressed dismay at the letter from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Iraqi regime recalling past Iraqi claims to Kuwait. The President also indicated that the members of the Council firmly rejected any suggestion that tended to dispute the existence of Kuwait.

Depite the demand of the members of the Security Council and their emphasis on the danger posed by its claims to Kuwait and on the need for it to desist from such claims as counterproductive to the achievement of peace in the region, the statements emanating from the Iraqi regime have continued in the same vein and have perhaps even become more strident than in the past. For purposes of illustration, and without attempting an exhaustive enumeration, the following can be cited:

- David Frost's telephone interview with Tariq Aziz, Deputy Prime Minister of the Iraqi regime, on Sunday, 31 January 1993, revealed the true nature of Iraq's purely outward and tactical compliance with the relevant resolutions with a view to securing an end to the economic sanctions and then resuming its well-known policies of aggression. This is evidenced by the following facts:

  - The answers of the Deputy Prime Minister of the Iraqi regime to the questions put to him were evasive and vague, and they raise

a number of questions. When asked if, when he had said on a previous occasion that the Kuwait chapter was closed, he had meant that he recognized Kuwait as an independent sovereign State, he answered that he would stand by what he had said before and did not wish to elaborate on the question because that might distort the Iraqi position at present and he did not wish it to be considered from that angle.

- When asked if that answer meant that Iraq had no new ambitions with regard to Kuwaiti territory, he answered that at present Iraq's position was to accept resolution 687.

We and the members of the Security Council are entitled to ask the reason for this vagueness and the meaning of the statement that he did not wish to elaborate on the question because that might distort the Iraqi position. What is the Iraqi position on this question? What does Tariq Aziz mean by his answer that at present Iraq's position is to accept resolution 687? Does that mean that there are other positions that Iraq intends to adopt in future with regard to the resolution?

We believe that Iraq's true and manifest position with regard to these questions is explicitly and unequivocally expressed in the statements on the subject of Kuwait made repeatedly in its information media and by Iraqi officials. The article on Kuwait recently published on the front page of the Iraqi newspaper Al-Jumhuriyah on 28 February 1993 perhaps reflects the true conviction of the Iraqi leadership. The newspaper, a mouthpiece of the Iraqi Government, states that:

> "Kuwait is a precious and beloved part of the national territory, and it first achieved its freedom when it returned to the fold of the nation on 2 August 1990, the day of the reconquest of Kuwait by the Iraqi forces."

The newspaper goes on to say:

> "Kuwait was not liberated from Iraq but was separated from it only to fall under colonial occupation on 28 February 1991. The Kuwaitis should be ashamed to celebrate the liberation of Kuwait, because it still remains an integral part of Iraq."

The entire world recognizes the falsity of the Iraqi claims that Kuwait belongs to Iraq and is aware of their purpose and their true nature. This fact is so obvious that even the Iraqi leaders themselves and their information media have been unable to ignore the true nature and purposes of these claims, based as they are on expansionism and ambition. On 27 February 1993, the newspaper Babil, whose editorial board is chaired by Udayy Saddam Hussein, son of the President of the Iraqi regime, revealed the major objective of these claims. It carried an article by a certain Abu Hatim entitled "The Question" that appears to be a true acknowledgement of what the Iraqis want of Kuwait. The writer asks:

"What if Kuwait were to remain in our possession? Does not this precious goal and great objective deserve such sacrifices? Kuwait, with the oil and world reserves that its territory contains, with what it adds to Iraq's budget and its oil stocks and with its buildings and institutions, maritime supplies and ports and related facilities, is, in the long-term, the answer."

The author of the article concludes his question by confirming a fact still denied by the Iraqi leadership, namely the deliberate theft and pillage of Kuwaiti property belonging to the Government and private sectors, and he gives the reason that all such property has not been returned when he writes:

"Kuwait is both presently at our disposal and not at our disposal. Everything built since the aggression has been built with materials partly originating in Kuwait."

This testimony from the Iraqi information media deserves to be included in the documentation of the Compensation Commission.

You must be aware that persistence in such an approach on the part of the Iraqi regime has the goal of keeping the Gulf region in a state of tension and instability. The Iraqi claims cannot be ignored by saying that they are destined for internal consumption or that they represent talk of past history, as asserted by the Deputy Prime Minister to the members of the Security Council on 23 November 1992. Even if that were so, they still impinge on the sovereignty and independence of Kuwait, a Member State of the United Nations and of the League of Arab States. Furthermore, over and above their defiance and rejection of the substance of the Security Council resolutions in their legal and political interpretations, such claims poison Iraqi public opinion with lies that will most assuredly have adverse repercussions on the future security and stability of the region.

We do not for a moment doubt that the Security Council will condemn in the strongest terms the reiteration of such Iraqi claims and will consider them an unequivocal retraction of the unconditional acceptance of resolution 687 (1991). The Security Council, on the basis of its responsibility for peace and security in the world, must therefore take appropriate measures to ensure Iraq's compliance with the letter and substance of its relevant resolutions, principally by desisting forthwith from reiterating such claims as constitute defiance of the Council and of the international community and by respecting the independence and sovereignty of Kuwait within its internationally recognized borders.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mohammad A. ABULHASAN
Permanent Representative